

Boston

Complete

Home and School Visiting

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THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION

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HOME AND SCHOOL VISITING
AS A
VOCATION FOR WOMEN

PREPARED BY
THE APPOINTMENT BUREAU
WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION
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This series of bulletins is based upon information obtained in connection with the actual placement of women in business positions. In no case has the subject been approached from the viewpoint of theoretical research.

The information is somewhat fragmentary and local in character, yet it has been adjudged by several experts to give an accurate and fair statement of existing conditions.

Later editions of the bulletins may be able to give wider information in regard to conditions outside New England.

The price of each bulletin is ten cents.

HOME AND SCHOOL VISITING AS A VOCATION FOR WOMEN

1. SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

Interviews with three school visitors and with seven members of committees which support school visitors.

2. THE OCCUPATION: ITS NATURE AND SCOPE.

a. PURPOSE OF A SCHOOL VISITOR: To make closer the connection between the home and the school.

(1) To investigate cases which trouble the teachers.

(2) To keep the teacher informed about conditions in the home which she has not time to investigate.

(3) To help the parents to understand the aims of the school and to work with the teacher.

b. DUTIES OF A SCHOOL VISITOR. (Problems vary in different schools, but certain conditions remain the same in each.)

(1) To visit the schools in her district each morning; to confer with the teacher and get lists of cases which need to be investigated, such as cases of occasional tardiness, untidy appearance, failure to bring necessary materials for the sewing class, complaint of parents that a child is unruly or rebellious at home, suspected desertion, and reported illness of parents, etc.

- (2) To visit the homes of all children on the list.
- (3) To refer all cases of need to the proper authorities.
- (4) To summon the school nurse or physician when necessary.
- (5) To keep records of cases visited.
- (6) To report her work to the committee once in two weeks, and confer with it regarding methods, etc.

c. HOURS.

For visiting.

The hours are very irregular. Usually the homes are visited during the day, but often calls must be made in the evening when the father is at home.

For conference.

Although experience indicates that an office with regular office hours would be helpful, no visitor has yet made such an arrangement.

d. APPOINTMENT OF A SCHOOL VISITOR.

At present the appointment is made under private philanthropy. A committee is appointed by various educational associations to choose a visitor and to supervise the work done in a particular district.

Reasons for private control.

The need of school visitors is not yet sufficiently standardized to warrant public appropriations for the work.

Advantage of temporary private control.

The work can develop gradually and with higher social service standards.

The individual worker can be selected with special consideration of race and local conditions.

An elastic salary schedule permits high salaries when exceptional qualifications warrant them.

3. THE PERSON: QUALITIES AND TRAINING.

a. QUALITIES.

Tact, sympathy, magnetism, breadth of view, resourcefulness, knowledge of human nature, force, good health.

b. TRAINING.

The usual training in social service, with some experience.

4. THE PAY: POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

a. SALARIES. \$800-\$1,000.

b. POSITIONS.

Dependent upon private philanthropy, and therefore more or less uncertain, although many schools feel the need and are asking the philanthropic organizations to appoint a visitor.

c. OPPORTUNITIES.

Openings are dependent upon the possibility of raising sufficient money and the finding of desirable candidates.

SUMMARY.

School visiting is still in the experimental stage, both as regards its value to the community and as regards the best methods for carrying on the work. At present it is restricted to certain districts of the city where previous social work has made visiting in the homes possible. It calls for women of superior social ability and training, and may in the future offer a field for many women.

5. CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS.

In the 12th (1900) U. S. Census Reports no special classification is made for school visiting.

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